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(54) Title: PYRAZOLO [3,4-B] PYRIDINE COMPOUNDS, AND THEIR USE AS PHOSPHODIESTERASE INHIBITORS

$$F = D$$

$$E = D$$

$$(x)$$

$$Q + G$$

$$M - L$$

$$M - L$$

(57) Abstract: The invention provides a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof, wherein Ar has the sub-formula (x) or (z) and wherein R³ is optionally substituted C₃₋₈cycloalkyl, optionally substituted C₅₋₇ cycloalkenyl, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group (aa), (bb) or (cc), or a bicyclic group (ee); and wherein R4 is H, C1-3 alkyl, C1-2fluoroalkyl, cyclopropyl, CH₂OR^{4a}, CH(Me)OR^{4a}, or CH2CH2OR^{4a}; and R⁵ is inter alia H, C1-8alkyl, C1-8fluoroalkyl, C3-8 cycloalkyl, certain substituted alkyl groups, -(CH2)_n13- Het, or optionally substituted phenyl or CH2-Ph; or R4 and R5 taken together are -(CH₂)p¹- or (CH₂)p3 X⁵ (CH2)p⁴-; provided that at least one of R4 and R5 is not a hydrogen atom (H). The invention also provides the use of the compounds as inhibitors of phosphodiesterase type IV (PDE4) and/or for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of inflammatory and/or allergic diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, allergic rhinitis or atopic dermatitis.

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